

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**FHB(FE)233**

**(Question Serial No. 3722)**

Head: (49) Food and Environmental Hygiene Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (000) Operational expenses  
Programme: (3) Market Management and Hawker Control  
Controlling Officer: Director of Food and Environmental Hygiene (Miss Vivian LAU)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Food and Health  
This question originates from: Estimates on Expenditure Volume I Page 253 (if applicable)

Question (Member Question No. 223):

Please advise whether the Department will allocate resources to review the current approved stall area specified in hawker licences and market stall tenancy agreements and make appropriate adjustments in light of the review results in 2014-2015. If yes, please give the plan, timetable and estimated expenditure of the review; if not, the reason(s).

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth

Reply:

On-street hawking is intended for small scale business and on-street hawker stalls take up street space in high density areas which is often major passageways for other road users as well. Increasing the size of the licensed stall area will aggravate the problem of street obstruction and would have adverse fire safety and environmental hygiene implications. Currently, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (the Department) exercises flexibility to allow hawkers to display their goods outside the approved stall areas during business hours, so long as there is no obstruction to passageways and emergency vehicular access and their stalls are retracted to their prescribed sizes after business hours. The Department considers that the current arrangement provides a balance that is about right.

As far as public markets are concerned, the Food and Health Bureau has commissioned a consultant for developing proposals to improve the operating environment of public markets thereby enabling them to fulfil the functions expected of them. Market stall area will be covered in the study. The consultancy fee amounts to \$2 million. The consultant is expected to submit preliminary study findings in mid-2014 if the study progresses smoothly.